

## **System Configuration Team (SCT)**

### **Meeting Notes January 30, 2004**

#### ***Greetings and Introductions.***

The January 30 meeting of the System Configuration Team was held at the National Marine Fisheries Service offices in Portland, Oregon. The meeting was chaired by Bill Hevlin of NMFS. The agenda and a list of attendees for the meeting are attached as Enclosures A and B. Hevlin led a round of introductions and a review of the agenda.

The following is a distillation (not a verbatim transcript) of items discussed at the meeting, together with actions taken on those items. Please note that some enclosures referenced may be too lengthy to routinely include with the meeting notes; copies of all enclosures referred to in the minutes are available upon request from Kathy Ceballos of NMFS at 503/230-5420.

#### ***1. Update on Budget Reduction and New Spreadsheet for the FY'04 CRFM Program.***

John Kranda distributed the most recent version of the FY'04 CRFM measures worksheet, dated January 30. Hevlin noted that, because of budget cuts, the FY'04 CRFM program will need to be reduced by about \$3 million. The Corps has developed a strawman proposal as to how the budget might be cut; those suggested cuts are highlighted in grey on the new spreadsheet (attached as Enclosure C). Hevlin added that, in response to a request from David Wills and Rod Woodin, he has agreed to defer an SCT decision on these cuts until Wills and Woodin can weigh in.

Kranda explained that, during the initial phases of SCT discussion on the FY'04 CRFM program, various budgetary projections were made, and the Corps felt it should be possible to overprogram somewhat in anticipation of restored savings and slippage. However, instead of the 16% savings and slippage that has been held back in recent years, we are now looking at about 22.5% savings and slippage, Kranda said. Kranda said the Corps NW Division was able to find just over \$3 million to put back into the FY'04 CRFM budget, but the bottom line is that, even with that additional \$3 million, we now have \$68 million-\$69 million to work with. Further, said Kranda, the new direction from our management is that we need to develop a CRFM program that fits within that budget level – in other words, we cannot overprogram this year, and we cannot contract for any work over and above that \$68 million level.

Ron Boyce said that, as far as he is concerned, deferring RSW construction at Ice Harbor would be the most logical place to make that reduction. We can certainly discuss that, said Kranda, but I'm not authorized to commit to that at today's meeting. Is there still any possibility of getting at least some savings and slippage restored by May or June? Hevlin asked. We have been told we will not get any additional funding or support this year, Dana Knutsen replied.

Kranda then spent a few minutes going through the spreadsheet line by line, touching on various line-items where budget estimates have been reduced or increased since the last SCT meeting. He said the Corps' strawman proposal as to where the \$3 million in cuts might occur would affect the following program items:

- Line-item 61 (John Day north shore AWS): defer
- Line-item 59 (Lower Snake River JBS improvements): defer
- Line-item 58 (Lower Monumental flow deflectors follow-up): defer
- Line-item 57 (Lower Monumental JBS outfall and divider wall): model studies only
- Line-item 56 (John Day biological studies): turbine test only
- Line-item 54 (System – turbine passage survival Ph. II): defer Ice Harbor work
- Line-item 53 (Lower Granite surface bypass BGS relocation and test): defer monitoring
- Line-item 45 (Lower Monumental RSW/BGS): model studies only
- Line-item 44 (Ice Harbor N. shore AWS sump modifications): not needed
- Line-item 42 (McNary turbine survival above 1%): transferred to McMod
- Line-item 35 (McNary gate and hoist rehab): favorable bid, cost reduced from \$3 million to \$1.6 million
- Line-item 19 (System – multiple bypass accumulated): defer
- Line-item 13 (System – delayed mortality of juvenile salmonids): modified scope, cost reduced from \$3.34 million to \$2.624 million
- Line-item 11 (Lower Monumental barge loading design improvements – dewaterer): defer
- Line-item 1 (Ice Harbor RSW): cost estimate reduced from \$6.58 million to \$5.709 million

Kranda also noted several line-items whose cost has increased. The bottom line, if the SCT is willing to live with the Corps' suggested cuts, is that, under this proposal, the total FY'04 CRFM program cost would be \$68.96 million, said Kranda.

The group devoted a lengthy discussion to the revised spreadsheet and to the Corps' strawman proposal, offering a variety of clarifying comments and questions. Many of the SCT's concerns focused on the tradeoffs between monitoring at John Day and Lower Granite (particularly line-item 56, and whether or not the turbine test can be deferred until 2005). Other concerns were raised about line-item 53, (whether all monitoring should be cut), line-items 45 and 57, which are linked, line-item 48 (how critical is it to do the biological studies portion in 2004?), line-item 54 (can more projects be deferred until 2005?), line-item 36 (how do the costs break out for each study component?), line-item 32 (can the array be moved upstream?), line-item 18 (is this double-counting?), line-item 23 (is this project essential for 2004, given the budget crunch?), line-item 24 (what will be lost if this cost does not increase from \$410,000 to

\$596,000?), line-item 42 (should all costs be shifted to McMod, or should the costs be shared between McMod and CRFM?) and line-item 1 (can construction be deferred to 2005, thereby freeing up enough money to avoid cuts to many of the other line-items?)

Ultimately, it was agreed that there will be a follow-up SCT conference call, including state and tribal participants, to discuss the revised CRFM program next Wednesday afternoon. The SCT will also revisit this topic at its February 19 meeting.

Kranda noted that the Corps needs immediate feedback on the CRFM budget; it was agreed to convene an SCT conference call for 3 p.m. Wednesday, February 4, following the salmon managers' discussion of this topic.

## ***2. Review of Corps Recommendations of What Projects and Studies to Defer or Reduce in '04.***

This topic was addressed during Agenda Item 1.

## ***3. Review Priorities for the FY'04 Program and Develop SCT Recommendations for the Reduced Budget.***

This topic was addressed during Agenda Item 1.

## ***4. Other.***

Marvin Shuttters said the Corps plans to convene a FFDRWG meeting to discuss the 2004 biological monitoring plan for McNary; Rebecca Kalamasz will send out notification once that meeting has been scheduled. In response to a question, Fodrea said that, at the December 23 federal executives meeting, the executives decided that there is justification to operate outside of 1% at McNary this spring, with two conditions - that Bonneville fund additional cleaning efforts, and that FFDRWG be convened to develop monitoring criteria. Shuttters said draft criteria are being developed by the Corps and will be distributed in advance of the FFDRWG meeting. And the meeting will be some time in the next couple of weeks? Boyce asked. Yes, Shuttters replied. And there is a meeting this Monday on the Fish Passage Plan? Hevlin asked. Yes, Fredricks replied - we will be discussing everyone's comments on the draft FPP.

## ***5. Next SCT Meeting Date.***

The next System Configuration Team meeting was set for Thursday, February 19. The March meeting was set for March 18. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle.